GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:506
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
TESTS FOR HIV
DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tests for HIV confirmation are different for the children below the age of two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HIV testing machines are available in all the Medical Colleges;

(d) whether these colleges are authorized to announce the status of an AIDS/HIV victims; and

(e) if so, the number of cases noticed till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The HIV status of children below the age of 2 years can be detected by a test known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

(c) HIV testing machines, for detecting antibodies i.e. ELISA readers are available in a majority of Public Sector Medical Colleges the machines for conducting the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test are available at a few centers only, and are not recommended for routine diagnostic use.

(d) They are authorized to reveal the status to the HIV/AIDS victims only, after pre and post test counseling, and maintaining full confidentiality.

(e) The number of AIDS cases reported till 31st October 2001 is 29007.